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**OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE**  
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**COMMENT ON THE DEATH OF KURT SCHUMACHER**

The death of Kurt Schumacher, chairman of the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD), removes a bitter foe of Chancellor Adenauer and of certain important American objectives in West Germany. His successor will almost certainly be Erich Ollenhauer, the 51-year-old vice-chairman, who has had considerable experience in running the party during Schumacher's illnesses as well as in patching up the internal quarrels to which the latter was largely indifferent. Under Ollenhauer's less dynamic leadership the party can be expected to be much less intransigent on questions like rearmament and cooperation with the West.

The Party Congress, now scheduled for late September, will probably not produce any significant formal changes in party policies, but is likely to develop a gradual increase in the influence of the moderates who desire to tone down opposition to German rearmament and European unity moves. Consequently, in the period preceding the crucial federal election campaign, the party will give relatively more attention to domestic issues, although not neglecting the Saar problem. The Socialists will continue to say, along with all other parties, that unification of Germany is the pressing issue, but their declarations on this matter can be expected to be less extreme, since even Ollenhauer himself does not think that unification is possible.

Schumacher's death may also open the way to Socialist participation in a Federal coalition Government in the event that the present coalition is defeated in the 1953 elections.

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